



NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

NEWS RELEASE

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SUCCESSFUL CORPORATE PRACTICES FEATURED AS WAY TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

National Education Goals Panel Teleconference Highlights Use of Baldrige Criteria and Quality Management in Education

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 13, 2000) – A school district in Texas that has virtually closed the performance gap between the races. A low-income school where even affluent parents line up to get their children enrolled. School bus engineers who work night and day to keep every bus running on time. These are among the success stories featured in a teleconference hosted today by the National Education Goals Panel. Entitled “Creating a Framework for High Achieving Schools,” the teleconference focused on the implementation of Baldrige criteria and Quality Management in the educational arena.

“This teleconference is an important first step in stimulating a dialogue that will showcase policies, practices and actions that are working in education today,” said Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson (R), chair of the National Education Goals Panel. “Today’s teleconference highlights an exciting set of ideas, relatively new to education, that a group of innovative education leaders have pioneered by with the help of partners from business.”

Among the success stories featured during the teleconference:

- Dr. Gerald Anderson, Superintendent of the Brazosport Independent School District in Texas, discussed the impact of Quality Management in his district’s schools. Because of Brazosport’s focus on state standards, today there is virtually no difference in academic achievement between minority and majority students or economically disadvantaged and advantaged students.
- Representatives from Azalea Elementary School in Pinellas County, Florida and from Bonny Eagle High School in Standish, Maine, focused on the importance of school leadership in a quality-driven environment and how it contributes to student success. At Azalea, a predominantly lower-income school, students are empowered learners; all students contribute to classroom goals and mission statements and track their progress using data. As a result, many affluent parents are now lining up to enroll their children at Azalea.

- Goals Panel member and Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon (D), Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed and two state legislators discussed how states can support Baldrige as a framework for reform. Indiana passed legislation with bipartisan support to encourage such reforms.
- Representatives from the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation of Columbus, Indiana, spoke about the role of local school boards in implementing Baldrige initiatives.
- Moderator Tom Houlihan, president of the North Carolina Partnership for Excellence, shared an example from his state's Craven County, where Quality Management has even affected how the county maintains its fleet of school buses.

What are Quality Management and the Baldrige Criteria?

Three decades ago, American businesses faced new challenges to their growth and success in the global marketplace. To remain competitive, business leaders began to think in terms of the quality of their business, their products and their employees. Empowering employees to set goals for their own success led to significant gains in productivity and resulted in greater satisfaction among employees and customers alike.

Today, American educators are facing similar challenges in the classroom. Superintendents, principals and teachers are beginning to embrace Quality Management. The application of Baldrige criteria in the educational arena creates a new framework for students and staff to set their own goals and plans for achieving success. Where they are being successfully employed, quality principles and the Baldrige criteria are producing dramatic and rapid gains in student achievement.

The term Quality Management refers to a set of beliefs that drive performance. Characteristics of this philosophy include a focus on data, a belief in the value of people and a focus on customer needs and wants. The term Baldrige refers to the Malcolm Baldrige awards program and is a self-assessment of organizational practices that support high performance. The seven component parts of the Baldrige self-assessment framework are a set of processes that provide direction and concrete steps in achieving high performance.

The Goals Panel 2000 Agenda

“It is often remarked that someone somewhere has solved every problem in education,” said Ken Nelson, executive director of the Panel. “The National Education Goals Panel is launching this teleconference as the first step in a year-long examination of these promising practices so people may one day remark that everyone everywhere has solved every problem in education.”

The teleconference begins a yearlong initiative entitled “High Achieving Schools: The Promise, The Practice, The Results” that will focus on standards-based reform. Other highlights of the National Education Goals Panel agenda for 2000 include:

- Four regional hearings in Los Angeles (May 22), Vermont (June 1), Atlanta (September 19) and Chicago (October) that will examine issues key to achieving high standards for all students;
- The formation of the Measuring Success Task Force, led by former Maine Gov. John “Jock” McKernan, that will make recommendations on data and reporting issues; and
- A final National Teleconference in December that will engage the nation by summarizing what has been learned and will empower educators to build consensus around promising practices.

About the Teleconference

The teleconference was filmed live in Washington, D.C. and featured 20 panelists, 4 of whom were linked via satellite from Indianapolis. Over 300 downlink sites nationwide participated, as well as more than 15 cable systems. The panelists represented a broad spectrum of students, educators, administrators and state leaders who have played key roles in successfully implementing Quality Management and the Baldrige criteria in their local schools. The teleconference was moderated by Tom Houlihan, president and CEO of the North Carolina Partnership for Excellence, and hosted by the chair of the National Education Goals Panel, Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson (R).

Today’s teleconference was broadcast nationwide via satellite and the Internet and will be stored for viewing on the web. For more information or to view the teleconference, please visit the National Education Goals Panel website at www.negp.gov.

About the National Education Goals Panel

Created in July 1990, the National Education Goals Panel is a bipartisan body of federal and state officials made up of eight governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators and two members appointed by the president. To learn more about the Goals Panel, please visit www.negp.gov. The eight National Education Goals call for greater levels of: student achievement and citizenship; high school completion; teacher education and professional development; parental participation in the schools; literacy and lifelong learning; and safe, disciplined, and alcohol-and-drug-free schools. The Goals also call for all children to be ready to learn by the time they start school and for US students to be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.

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